

This week, I will have the honor of being sworn in as the United States Representative for the 15th District of California for the fourth time. I am grateful to my constituents, who have once again expressed their support and put their faith in me to represent their interests in Congress. I pledge to serve you to the best of my ability in my new role as a member of the majority party and a member of the Appropriations Committee.

I also have the privilege of casting my vote for the first woman speaker of the United States House of Representatives, my good friend Representative Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco. Speaker Pelosi has been around politics longer than most of us, from her childhood days helping her father during his time as the mayor of Baltimore.

After raising her children, Nancy dedicated herself to Democratic politics in California. She eventually became the chair of the state party, for which I as a Californian am eternally grateful. Then she decided to run for Congress, to be a “voice that will be heard” speaking the ideals of the Democratic Party. And her voice has been heard indeed. Her strength, determination, and leadership were critical to our electoral victory in November and to our efforts to lead America in a new direction. She made history when she became the first female House Democratic Leader, and she brought our caucus together like no one had ever done before.

A Landmark Day for America

Today, 20 years after her first election to the Congress, Nancy Pelosi is making history again as the first woman Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. She has described becoming the first female speaker as breaking through “the marble ceiling,” and noted that “this makes glass look like nothing”. I am proud to be able to help her break that ceiling by casting my vote for her. As Speaker, Nancy Pelosi will be able to show the American people that women know how to use power, and she will help all women, whether they are in politics or any other field, to make great strides forward by serving as an example of a woman who is a great leader.

Speaker Pelosi is also making history as the first Californian to serve as Speaker of the House. It is long past due that a representative of our nation’s most populous, diverse and prosperous state lead the “People’s House.” For too long there has been an “Anywhere But California” attitude in Washington, and I look forward to a change of that tone under Speaker Pelosi.

As a fellow Californian Member of Congress, I have worked closely with Speaker Pelosi and have come to know her as a compassionate human being of unwavering principle. Nancy represents the very best of Democratic ideals and American values. Under her strong and able leadership I know that we are going to do great things, addressing the American people's fundamental concerns and ensuring the safety, security and prosperity of each and every one of our fellow citizens. I am proud to serve with her and follow her leadership.